



Hurricane Harvey 2017 8/25/2017 – 1300 Update

Hurricane Status from NOAA

As of 1000 AM CDT (1500 UTC), Harvey is forecasted to make landfall on the middle Texas coast tonight or early Saturday. Harvey is then likely to meander near or just inland of the middle Texas coast through the weekend.

Maximum sustained winds are near 110 mph (175 km/h) with higher gusts. Some strengthening is possible, and Harvey is forecast to become a major hurricane before it reaches the middle Texas coast. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 35 miles (55 km) from the center, and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 140 miles (220 km). A buoy located about 40 miles east of South Padre Island recently reported sustained winds of 42 mph (68 km/h) and a gust to 54 mph (86 km/h).

Refineries/Fuel Waivers

The Joint HQ/Region 6 Emergency Fuel Waiver Team has been in discussion with the State of Texas on potential fuel waiver activities. All parties are in agreement that any proactive waiver action is premature and agreed to focus on coordination and collective preparation in advance of the storm.

Status:

- There is currently a run on gasoline in the Corpus and Houston areas.
- Public emergency evacuations are underway.
- Evacuation of numerous gulf platforms are underway.
- After evacuations are completed, the run on gasoline is expected to slow down.
- Refineries are shutting down in the Corpus area. (2 have stated they are shutting down while the third has not commented publically but is expected be shutting down as well)
- Texas issued a Disaster Proclamation which initiates the suspension of various state rules and statutes as needed.
- Corpus area supplies about 4.2% of national fuel capacity, and a major supplier to Dallas/Fort Worth market
- Houston area supplies about 14% of national fuel capacity

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has reached out to fuel distributors, the TX Food & Fuel Association, and the Oil & Gas Association - no immediate relief is necessary but all parties will continue to monitor the situation. Current concerns include the supply to Dallas/Fort Worth market, supply of Reformulated Gas, and fuel in general.

Tribal

EPA has reached out to the Alabama-Coushatta (TX) and Coushatta Tribe (LA). EPA will continue to reach out to the tribes and the Bureau of Indian Affairs contact if needed. Tribes will be reminded to contact the State and Local authorities for immediate evacuation needs.

Water

EPA is working with the States of Texas and Louisiana on populating the EPA Region 6 Emergency Response data management system with the public water systems in the declared areas. EPA is prepared to assist the States in post-landfall contact to determine operating status and assistance requirements as needed. EPA and the states are currently having daily status calls.

State/Federal Cooperation

To support the EPA Region 6 response, the Poison Control Center (PCC) Network for Texas and the Louisiana Poison Center have both been notified and briefed on approaching tropical storm system Harvey. Both Texas and Louisiana PCC's can provide daily situation reports on citizen calls to the Poison Center. They also have the ability to directly reach out to me ATSDR or EPA and provide info on cases that involve environmental contamination or those calls that are of health/exposure concern.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) has activated the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 10. EPA Region 6 will be deploying two On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) on Friday in support of the State through this ESF. The first OSC will deploy to the FEMA Regional Response Center in Denton, Texas and the second OSC to the State of Texas Operations Center in Austin, Texas.

TCEQ requested EPA Region 6 to provide Just-in-Time training on the EPA Region data management platform and the forms used to collect the data. An additional On-Scene Coordinator will deploy Tuesday to assist the TCEQ. Two EPA contractors have already deployed to Robstown, Texas to support this request.